

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-24 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1 and 2 having been canceled and Claims 15 and 19 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allefeld (U.S. Patent 4,531,374) in view of Official Notice. However, Claims 3-24 were indicated as allowed.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 3-24 have been allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1 and 2 be canceled without prejudice.

Claims 15 and 19 have been amended solely for minor informalities as seen from the amendment above.

In light of the prior indication of allowable claims and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing amendments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to resolve remaining issues and expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

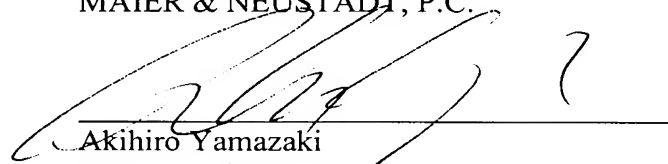
Respectfully submitted,

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